

## MONTHLY NOTES

OF

### The Library Association of the United Kingdom.

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**Contents:**—Official Notices—June Monthly Meeting—Public Libraries and The "Promulgation List"—Library Statistics Again—Library Notes—Library Catalogues and Reports—Library Publications—Correspondence—&c., &c.

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THE MONTHLY MEETINGS have been suspended for the months of July, August and September, by a Resolution of the Council, in accordance with Art. 20 of the Constitution.

The arrangements for the Liverpool Meeting (which, as already announced, will be held on Tuesday, the 11th of September and three following days) are now being made, and the Council will be happy to receive offers of Papers at the earliest possible date.

The following circular has been issued by the Local Committee at Liverpool:—

It is proposed to hold, during the Meeting of the Library Association in Liverpool, on the 11th-14th of next September, an EXHIBITION OF OBJECTS AND APPLIANCES ILLUSTRATING THE WORKING ARRANGEMENTS, &c., OF LIBRARIES IN ALL THEIR DEPARTMENTS, and the Local Committee would be glad of your kind co-operation with a view of making it as complete and useful as possible. The Exhibition will include plans and designs of library buildings, models or specimens of various kinds of shelving, book-cases, book-stands, trays and racks, trucks or carriages for the conveyance of books in libraries, indicators, ladders, book-supports, reading cases, methods of preserving loose pamphlets and magazines, newspaper files and holders, book tags and labels, book-stamps or illustrations of them, catalogues, specimens of catalogue cards and slips, *illustrations of the means of indicating to the public new accessions to a library*, systems of booking for lending libraries, stationery, copying machines, &c.

As the above list is but an imperfect enumeration of objects and appliances useful in library administration, it is hoped that others will be sent likely to prove of interest and value.

It is proposed to make bookbinding adapted for public libraries a speciality; but specimens of ornamental binding, samples of materials, and all that may illustrate the *ars technica* will be equally acceptable.

Plain library bindings will include—first, such as are best fitted for books

like the Proceedings and Transactions of various learned societies, scientific magazines, &c., whose bindings suffer most from the action of gas and a dry atmosphere rather than from usage by readers; secondly, bindings adapted for lending-library books where the wear and tear is hard and constant; thirdly, bindings for books of reference with plates.

Since the first Librarians' Conference, held in London in 1877, no exhibition of a satisfactory kind has taken place, and even then it was by no means as complete as could have been desired. It is recommended therefore that exhibits should not be confined to novelties since that date, but that the same objects should be again exhibited, if not superseded by more recent improvements. This will be particularly agreeable to new members of the association and those unable to attend the first conference.

Exhibits, carriage paid, will be required not later than September 4th, and particulars of such, and the probable amount of space you will require, will be deemed a favour. All objects exhibited will be carefully repacked and returned without delay at the close of the meeting. Glass cases will be provided for objects requiring special care.

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY,  
LIVERPOOL, *June*, 1883.

W. J. STEWART, } *Hon. Secs.*  
P. COWELL, }

Our members will be interested in the announcement that the surplus stock of the Transactions of our Association has been sold by auction at Messrs. Hodgson's. The matter will form a subject of comment in the Annual Report of the Council, but it must not be supposed, as is suggested in a letter from a correspondent printed in the present number, that the Council were in any way responsible for this sale, or that they failed to take such steps as seemed fitting in the interests of the Association.

The following new members who are engaged in library administration have joined the Association since the last Monthly Meeting:—Rev. L. White, Bayham Abbey, Lamberhurst, Sussex; Mr. R. H. Farrar, 8, John St., Adelphi, W.C.; Dr. R. S. Watson, Pilgrim St., Newcastle; Mr. Adam Carse, Granville Road, Newcastle; and Mr. Geo. F. Hooper, Librarian, Admiralty Library, S.W.

The Treasurer begs to remind those members of the Association whose Subscriptions for the current year are still unpaid, that it will be a great convenience if they are remitted to him at once.

Members are also reminded that they are invited to contribute the very modest sum of 2s. per annum towards the expense of carrying on MONTHLY NOTES.

#### JUNE MONTHLY MEETING.

The Ninth Monthly Meeting of the Sixth Year of the Association was held at the London Institution, on Friday, June 1st, 1883, at 8 P.M., the TREASURER, Mr. ROBERT HARRISON, in the Chair.

The following gentlemen, being engaged in library administration,

were announced as having joined the Association:—Mr. A. W. W. Dale, Fellow and Librarian of Trinity Hall, Cambridge (reported by the Rev. S. S. Lewis); Mr. W. Hall, Librarian, Free Library, Rotherham (reported by Mr. John Ballinger, of Doncaster); Mr. John Williams Heppel, Assistant Librarian, Public Library, Worcester (reported by Mr. Samuel Smith, of Worcester).

A letter from Dr. R. GARNETT expressing regret at his inability to prepare his Paper promised for the Meeting having been read, and there being no other business, the Meeting adjourned.

### PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND THE "PROMULGATION LIST."

THE question of the distribution to libraries of public documents printed at the national expense is one to which, as most of our readers are aware, the special attention of the Council and of the Association has now been for some time directed. The important Paper contributed to our Cambridge Meeting by Mr. James Yates, the Public Librarian of Leeds, who has made this question peculiarly his own, will soon be in the hands of members. We have shown in MONTHLY NOTES for January and March of this year\* what has been done in this matter, and what degree of success has been obtained by the librarians of the United States. The story there imperfectly told should assuredly stimulate us to like exertions which will, it is to be hoped, be ultimately crowned by a like victory.

The immense accumulations of Parliamentary business which have had the effect of checking the progress of the new Free Libraries Bill have rendered it quite hopeless to think of making any rapid or immediate progress in regard to this question. It was, of course, the duty of the Council to ascertain what steps, if any, were being taken by the Government or its officers to deal with the principle upon which public documents should be distributed. Attention was called to this subject in 1881, in the First Report of the present Controller of the Stationery Office, Mr. Pigott.† The Controller called particular attention to the distribution of the Statutes, of which he spoke in the following terms:—

"The general distribution of the Statutes is made by the printer in accordance with a 'Promulgation List,' which is a paper of some antiquarian interest, but as an official document of present application perfectly unintelligible. It was originally drawn up by a Committee of the House of Commons, and adopted by a resolution passed in 1801. The List was reconsidered in 1835 by a subsequent Committee, who reported that they had been 'unable to discover any fixed principle on which the distribution was made,' and recommended that a new List should be prepared; but it does not appear that any action was taken on their recommendation."‡

\* pp. 2—5; 50, 51.

† First Report of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1881. 8vo., pp. 33.

‡ p. 12.

The observations made by the Controller upon this and other questions connected with the Stationery Office led to the appointment of a Joint Select Committee of the two Houses of Parliament to consider Mr. Pigott's Report. The Select Committee took evidence upon the various questions relating to the printing done for Parliament and the storage and sale of Parliamentary Papers, and also upon the promulgation of the Statutes; the last being the only question with which we now propose to deal.

Questions 206 to 232 addressed to Mr. Pigott deal with this subject, and the story told by Mr. Pigott was certainly a very curious one. He told the Committee that copies of the Statutes were still printed for the use of the boroughs of Gatton—as everybody knows, one of the old rotten boroughs—and Dunwich—an old seaport, but now for many years almost entirely submerged, and for many other places as little entitled to them. The total number of copies of the Statutes, supplied at the public expense, was 1885, of which the Houses of Parliament received 770 copies; Offices and Departments of State, 50; Courts of Justice, 188; sheriffs, magistrates, &c., 807; and *Public Libraries*, 20. Mr. Pigott explained that in his opinion “the distribution of the Statutes at large at the public expense ought to be made on some intelligible principle. Whoever they might be, it ought to be clearly laid down that such and such a class of public officials, magistrates, and so on, and *libraries*, should receive Acts of Parliament; that this list should be corrected by some one in authority every year, and issues made from it.”

After hearing Mr. Pigott and considering the matter, the Committee in their report recommended, “That a fresh list for the promulgation of the Statutes be drawn up by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in communication if necessary with the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury,” and “That all alterations in the revised list be made by the same authority.” The report of the Select Committee is dated 29th July, 1881, on which day it was ordered by the House of Commons to be printed.\*

In pursuance of the recommendations of the Select Committee, Sir William Harcourt, as Home Secretary, appointed a departmental Committee, consisting of Sir A. F. O. Liddell, Mr. Pigott, and Mr. C. J. Knyvett, one of the principal clerks in the Home Office, to draw up a fresh list for the Promulgation of the Statutes. The warrant of appointment was signed on the 10th of February, 1882. The Report of the Committee has just been printed (it is dated May 18th, 1883), and occupies, together with the appendices 139 folio pages.† We think it not unsuitable to direct the attention of our readers to the principle of distribution laid down by the Committee, and especially to the treatment accorded to libraries in this Report.

It should be observed, in the first place, that the number of copies

\* Report from the Select Committee of the House of Lords and the House of Commons on Stationery Office (Controller's Report). . . . Ordered by the House of Commons to be printed 29th July, 1881. Folio, pp. xiv. 63.

† Report of the Committee appointed to consider the List of 1801 for the Promulgation of the Statutes, with Appendices. . . . Folio, pp. 139.

to be distributed in accordance with this new list is not diminished, but is, in fact, enlarged from 1885 or 1886\* to 2366.

How now have the Committee dealt with the case of "Public Libraries, &c."? There is no more striking change in the state of things since the list of 1801 was framed than the development of libraries in this country, and especially of libraries created and maintained also at the expense of no small proportion of the rate-payers of the country. It will hardly be believed that the Committee have not added a single library to the list. Indeed, at first sight, the list appears to have been diminished, though this diminution is only apparent. To use the very words of the Committee:—

"The Public Libraries: We do not suggest any alteration as regards the supply of Statutes to these Institutions, except in respect of the libraries of Queen Anne's Bounty, First Fruits Office, and Corporation of Sons of the Clergy, which are dealt with under the head 'Public Departments.'" All they have done is to transfer these "institutions," which certainly sound oddly enough among libraries, to the head of "Public Departments," where indeed they sound nearly as oddly. It is interesting to observe how the list of libraries now stands. It is as follows:—

## PUBLIC LIBRARIES, &amp;c.

	Sets in sepa- rate acts.	Sets bound.
The Queen's Library . . . . .	—	1
The Lambeth Palace Library . . . . .	—	1
The British Museum . . . . .	—	1
The College of Arms . . . . .	—	1
Lincoln's Inn . . . . .	—	1
Gray's Inn . . . . .	—	1
Inner Temple . . . . .	—	1
Middle Temple . . . . .	—	1
The University of Oxford . . . . .	1	—
The University of Cambridge . . . . .	1	—
The Vice-Chancellor of Oxford . . . . .	1	—
The Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge . . . . .	1	—
The University of London . . . . .	1	—
The Chapter of Canterbury . . . . .	1	—
The Chapter of York . . . . .	1	—
The Chapter of St. Paul's . . . . .	1	—
The Chapter of Westminster . . . . .	1	—

TOTAL 17

This is certainly a very curious list. The British Museum, Oxford, and Cambridge receive copies of the Statutes, and properly enough, but why does not the Advocates' Library at Edinburgh receive a set, and the Library of Trinity College, Dublin? Then the

\* So it is stated at p. 35 of the Report. I do not quite understand the calculation on p. 36, which makes the old number 1961.—ED.

University of London receives a copy: but why not the University of Durham, or the Victoria University, or the Scotch Universities? So, again, four Chapters in all England and Wales are singled out: why should not other Chapters be supplied? Here, certainly, we look in vain to see how the Committee proposes to carry out Mr. Pigott's "intelligible principle." But a more curious and glaring question still should surely have presented itself to the minds of the Committee? Why should the College of Arms and three or four Chapters be supplied with sets of the Statutes at the public expense, and not the libraries maintained by the ratepayers of Liverpool and Manchester, of Birmingham and Bristol, not to name a hundred other places? We may ask the question, indeed, but where is the answer to it? Yet the question should be asked and asked and asked again until some sort of answer is extorted from the Stationery Office or the Treasury.

It may be worth while to give a few illustrations of the extravagances with which it is still proposed to bestow copies of the Statutes upon some favoured *institutions* and *individuals*, while the infinitely greater claims of the public libraries are wholly ignored.

To begin with, no less than 218 sets are given to members of the House of Lords, besides which many of its leading members receive duplicate and even triplicate copies from the Privy Council Office, or as being officers of State. The number assigned to the House of Commons—viz., 22 copies, is in singular contrast to the liberality shown to the House of Lords.

It is difficult to see the reason for the inclusion of some of the so-called departments of State. Why, for instance, should copies be supplied at the public expense to such institutions or "departments" as the Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy, Queen Anne's Bounty Office, and the Consistory Court of Hereford?

The most unjustifiable waste is shown in the treatment of some great officers. Thus the Lord Chancellor, in addition to the set which he is entitled to as a peer, receives one from the Privy Council\* Office, and no less than three sets as Chancellor. It is even more absurd that the Archbishop of Canterbury, in addition to his copy as a peer, receives *three* in his capacity of archbishop, and a further copy for the Lambeth Palace Library!

The entire number of copies absorbed by the Houses of Parliament, the State Departments, and the Courts of Justice, amounts to 752. The remaining 1597 copies (which, together with the 17 copies allotted to libraries, make up the total of 2366) are distributed to municipal magistrates, the chief magistrates or head officers of every city, borough, and town corporate, and the clerks of the magistrates of boroughs which have a commission of the peace under the Municipal Corporations Act; and finally, in counties, to sheriffs, clerks of the peace and lord lieutenants, to chairmen of Quarter

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\* It is curious to note that a set is supplied by the Privy Council Office to the Lord Steward, the Lord Chamberlain, and the Master of the Horse respectively (p. 41).



Sessions and Petty Sessional Divisions altogether, no less than 1002 sets are distributed to county officials and magistrates.

The Committee report that they felt considerable difficulty as to the mode of distribution in this class, and as to the preservation of the Statutes for public purposes. They issued a series of questions to the county authorities; and the replies, which are printed in an appendix to their Report, deserve particular attention. The Committee themselves sum up the effect of these replies as follows:—

1. "That (with some few exceptions) *no general system exists for the preservation of the Statutes*, or for the transmission of them from clerk to clerk of Petty Sessional Divisions, or from magistrate to magistrate.

2. That, with the exception of copies kept by clerks of the peace and those maintained for the use of Courts of Quarter Sessions, *there are hardly any complete sets from the year 1801.*

3. That *many clerks and most magistrates look upon the copies supplied to them as their private property*; and that (with some few exceptions) no steps are taken *on a change of clerks*, from death or other causes, to secure to their successor the possession of Statutes, which have been supplied at the public expense.

4. That in the case of *magistrates* it would appear that *in most instances* the Statutes are placed in their libraries, and *pass, as a matter of course*, to their representatives.

5. Many of the clerks report that they consider themselves entitled to retain the Statutes *as private property*, inasmuch as they are at the expense of binding them."\*

The Committee do not, however, call particular attention to the replies received to one of their questions, which is of importance for our present purpose. They asked the County Authorities to say, "14. Assuming that such arrangements do not at present exist, could regulations be established to render the copies of the Statutes supplied for the use of Courts of Quarter and Petty Sessions *available for public use*, by keeping them at the courts or places where such Sessions are held?"

From the general nature of the answers received to this question it appears that for the most part the Statutes supplied to the County Authorities are not generally available for public use. It is also pointed out in at least one answer,† that the copies are really more available for public use by being kept at the clerks' offices, which are open daily, than by their being kept at the court-houses, which are only occasionally open.

It does not appear to have presented itself to the attention of the Committee that so far as the use of the Statutes by the general public is concerned, there would be no place so appropriate as the public library supported by the ratepayers, wherever there is such an institution. The law of England assumes and must necessarily assume, that the Statutes are known to every member of the community. The principle upon which the extensive distribu-

\* p. 8.

† Report : App. G, p. 60.

tion of the Statutes, to which we have here called attention is founded, is doubtless that it is the duty of the Government to promulgate new Statutes as widely as possible. It does not seem unreasonable to suggest that one of the most obvious and desirable ways of attaining this object is to deposit a copy of the Statutes in every library established under the Free Libraries Acts. These libraries, it may not unfairly be asserted, have a peculiar claim to consideration in this very connection. They are established and supported by the ratepayers acting, as it were, in a political capacity as citizens, and as citizens they are entitled to be supplied by the Government which they support with the fullest possible information upon public affairs, and it may be confidently maintained that they offer guarantees for safety and permanence, at all events in the case of all the larger libraries, such as are not to be obtained under the present system.

The publication of this Report is indeed so far satisfactory that it is a first step towards putting the distribution of public documents upon a fixed and intelligible footing. It is clear that here is the point at which the public libraries of the country should take their stand. The principle of including public libraries is confirmed afresh by the present Report. What we have now to ask is that libraries which are public in so many senses of the word may be put upon an equal footing with the libraries of the College of Arms and of the Chapters of Canterbury and York. To this demand there can ultimately be but one answer—an answer in accordance with the spirit and circumstances of the times and which have altered since the year 1801 in nothing more notably than in respect of the development of public libraries.

EDITOR.

#### LIBRARY STATISTICS AGAIN: OR, THE HISTORY OF A PARAGRAPH.

In our April number we called attention to a certain paragraph which had found its way into the editorial columns of the *Bibliographer*, on the Libraries of Paris and their statistics. We remarked that, among other curious features of the list given in this paragraph, was the mention of the Bibliothèque du Louvre, which was burnt in 1871, to which indeed we might have added the Bibliothèque des Avocats, which was also burnt in the same year; but the oddest thing in the list was the statement, which we faintly characterised as "innocent and astonishing," that "the Bibliothèque Nationale contains more than half a million volumes," and we contrasted with these figures the figures given in the new edition of *Encyclopædia Britannica* (2,290,000, exclusive of MSS.)

We confess that we should have expected anyone who had the slightest knowledge of library matters, and *a fortiori* anyone claiming to be an expert, to have seen at once the justice of our observations. We were certainly surprised, therefore, to see the editor of the *Bibliographer* make the following reply in his July number (p. 56):—



"In printing these statistics we omitted our authority. This oversight we are glad to have the opportunity of setting right. The French Minister of Public Instruction is responsible for the figures, which are taken from his report and printed in the *Chronique* of the *Bibliographie de la France*. Whether the statement of the Minister of Public Instruction is 'innocent,' and whether the editor of the *Monthly Notes*, and the *Encyclopædia Britannica* are better authorities on the subject of French libraries than this distinguished official, we must leave for others to settle."

We were naturally a little impressed by the confidence with which the editor of the *Bibliographer* fell back for support upon the French Minister of Public Instruction. But it was impossible to believe that a Minister of *Instruction*, of all people in the world, could be responsible for a paragraph abounding in orthographical and even grammatical blunders. And that the figures were correct not fifty Ministers of Public Instruction would have convinced us, or, we beg leave to think, anyone who knows anything of the subject.

Our next step, therefore, was to look at the paragraph in the *Chronique* of the *Bibliographie de la France*, where it appeared on the 13th of January last. Here indeed we did not find the grammatical errors which disfigured the paragraph as it appeared in the *Bibliographer*, nor did we find any mention of the Minister of Public Instruction. This "distinguished official," like the amusing variations\* of the paragraph in its English form, thus appears to owe his existence to the printer of the *Bibliographer*.

We did indeed find that the paragraph, printed, it should be observed, under the heading "Faits Divers,"—and we all know what to expect under that heading in a French newspaper—was introduced by the sentence, "Le Ministère de l'Instruction Publique vient de terminer une intéressante statistique." Now, to say nothing of the blunder of translating "Ministère" into Minister, we believe that the introduction of the Ministry of Public Instruction into this paragraph is due to some myrmidon in the printing office of the *Chronique*: at all events we are in a position to *prove* that the phrase "vient de terminer" is an absolute invention or falsification of those who have put this paragraph into fresh circulation.

For, as it happens, we are able to tell the editor of the *Bibliographer* something of the history of this paragraph, over which he has charitably endeavoured to throw the cloak of the French Minister of Public Instruction.

The paragraph in question, almost *verbatim* as it appeared in the *Chronique* of 13th January, 1883, was printed in the non-official portion of the *Journal Officiel* of the 9th of August, 1876, which lies before us as we write, where it is introduced by a statement that the figures are taken from the *Débats*.

We have accordingly been at the trouble of looking up the *Journal des Débats*, and in its issue for the 6th of August, 1876 (p. 3a, b),

\* Such as *Cours de Cassation* for *Cour de Cassation*, *Musée d'Histoire Naturel (sic)*, *Hospita!* "Laribornere" for "Lariboisière," &c. &c.

under the same heading of "Faits Divers," we find the same paragraph. In neither case is there any mention of a minister or ministry of any sort, or the least intimation that the figures are drawn from official sources, but merely a general intimation, which may mean anything, and here means rather less than anything, that "les chiffres sont d'une exactitude aussi précise que possible."

So much for the later history of this paragraph, for we are far from believing that we have traced it to its origin. The inclusion of the libraries of the Avocats, and especially of the Louvre, is sufficient to indicate that it is older than the war of 1870-71, for it is matter of common knowledge that these libraries were burnt in 1871 during the Commune. We invite the editor of the *Bibliographer*, who is of course anxious to give his readers the latest and most accurate information, to join us in our researches, unless, that is, he holds the maxim of French jurisprudence to apply even to literary matters, "la recherche de la paternité est interdite." At least we may ask him to inform his readers if he still thinks the Printer's Devil of the *Journal de l'Imprimerie* a better authority than the "Editor of the *Monthly Notes*" and the Administrateur-Général of the *Bibliothèque Nationale*.

As the history of this paragraph is, we venture to think, of some interest, and as the editor of the *Bibliographer* has questioned the value of the statistical information in the article in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, perhaps we may be excused for quoting a few lines from Mr. Cutter's notice of that article:—\*

"The statistics of the chief libraries of the world with which it closes are the most satisfactory portion. They are brought down to the latest time, and Messrs. Tedder and Thomas's success in previous efforts of this kind makes it certain that they are trustworthy. Perhaps their work will repress for a time the erratic exuberance of the newspapers in this regard. Everyone who is interested in the subject must have noticed the continual appearance of items on the number of volumes in the chief libraries, founded on the statistics sometimes of the last decade, sometimes of the last century, and sometimes of a distant future."

Mr. Cutter's warning has not availed to prevent the importation of a stupid and antiquated paragraph into the pages of the *Bibliographer*. Perhaps this repetition of the warning may stop its career before it finds its way into some literary or scientific journal.

Finally we may point out that in the *Journal Officiel* of the 26th of July, 1874, may be found a "Rapport adressé au Min<sup>re</sup> ... par l'Administrateur-Général de la Bibliothèque Nationale," in which the number of volumes in the library will be found to be stated by this "distinguished official" not at the beautifully vague figure of "over half a million," but as 2,077,571. It was upon this, the latest official document, that the figures given in the *Encyclopædia Britannica* and repeated in the *Monthly Notes* were originally based.

EDITOR.

\* In the *Nation* of October 19th, 1882; reprinted, *Library Journal*, January, 1883, p. 7.

## LIBRARY NOTES.

AUCKLAND (NEW ZEALAND).—On the 5th of June Sir George Grey, who has presented a library to Auckland, as we have already recorded in these pages, delivered an address to the citizens of Auckland in the Theatre Royal "Upon the principles which should guide the citizens in founding a Free Public Library." The address is reported at length in the *New Zealand Herald* of the following day. It was announced that the city was in a position, from the funds they had in hand—the munificent bequest of the late Mr. Edward Costley—to take steps for the erection of necessary buildings for the Free Public Library and Art Gallery. A vote of thanks was given to Sir George Grey for his address and for the "munificent gift of his valuable library to the citizens of Auckland."

BETHNAL GREEN.—The Committee of this Institution have published a statement to the effect that after seven years' incessant labour they have secured a valuable collection of books, magazines, &c., numbering about 17,000, all of which have been presented. The books, &c., are deposited in suitable premises, which include the library, newspaper and magazine room, ladies reading room and lecture hall, and which have been erected at a cost of £5,000. The Library was opened to the public on the 22nd of December, 1881. Additional shelves are much required to accommodate the large number of volumes, reviews, journals, and magazines that have been recently given, which will, with other expenses, involve a further outlay of £100. The Library is entirely supported by voluntary contributions, which are greatly needed to meet the annual expenditure that cannot consistently with the efficient maintenance of so important a work be less than £300. The Committee, therefore, appeal to the public for the required amounts above named.

CAMBRIDGE.—The Council have approved of plans for the erection of a new Reading Room in connection with the Free Library. The room will cost £2000.

DARLINGTON.—The ratepayers have decided to adopt the Libraries Acts, and will thus be able to avail themselves of the offer made by the executors of Mr. Edward Pease (see p. 62). The executors have also offered themselves to give £100. as the heading of a subscription list for books.

DONCASTER.—An attempt has been lately made at Doncaster to arrange equitable terms by which the outlying townships of Doncaster might enjoy the benefits of the Public Library. In the case of one of these—Wheatley—at a preliminary meeting of the ratepayers, held on May 29, a resolution was unanimously carried in favour of the Acts, and a Committee was formed. A meeting of the ratepayers was accordingly called by the overseers and held on June 28, when the proposal was rejected by 66 votes to 14. Mr. Ballinger, the Librarian of the Public Library, Doncaster, was present, but was barely allowed a hearing. He continued, however, to state that his Committee had found it necessary to issue an order to stop all those persons from borrowing who were not rated or

resident within the borough, and that a considerable number of persons from Wheatley who used the Library would have to be stopped. A fuller statement of the case is made by Mr. Ballinger in the letter published in the *Doncaster Chronicle* of July 6th.

HACKNEY.—The Hackney Vestry has decided to accept the offer made by the Rev. R. Daniel Tyssen, the Rector of South Hackney, of his father's collection, relating to Hackney and its celebrities, to form the nucleus of a Free Library, and a room at the Town Hall has been selected for the purpose.

HUDDERSFIELD.—On Saturday, July 7th, the Duke of Somerset, K.G., performed the double ceremony of opening the new Technical School and Mechanics' Institute and a Fine Art and Industrial Exhibition in connexion with it. The Huddersfield Mechanics' Institute dates back more than forty years and during that period has rendered the most valuable services to primary, secondary and technical education. Some years ago a joint committee of the Institute and the Chamber of Commerce determined to erect a new building. Twenty thousand pounds has been expended upon a handsome and commodious structure, which, includes chemistry and dyeing rooms, weaving shed, art rooms, library, &c. About £16,000 has been raised already, and it is hoped to raise a portion of the remainder by means of the exhibition. The articles exhibited form a collection hardly, if at all, inferior to those exhibited at Bradford last year.

IVERNESS.—The Free Library which has been formed in the new building in the Castle Wynd in connexion with a Museum and School of Art was formally opened on Saturday, June 16th, by Mr. Charles Fraser Mackintosh, M.P. The Acts were adopted at a public meeting on July 4th, 1877, with only three dissentients. Before that, however, the Town Council had purchased the books of the Subscription Library to form the beginning of a Free Library, and Mr. Mitchell, of Viewhill, promised £500 for books. The income of the Library from the vote will be about £300. The number of volumes is over 5400, and a catalogue of them has already been prepared.

LIVERPOOL.—The annual meeting of the proprietors of the Liverpool Library was held on May 21st, in the New City Hall, the Rev. Wm. Banister, V.P., in the chair. It was announced that notice of appeal had been lodged against the decision of Mr. Justice Chitty in the recently-heard suit of Peacock *v.* Sinclair. (A summary of the report will be found at p. 99.)

LONDON LIBRARY.—The annual meeting of the members was held on May 31st, the Earl of Carnarvon in the chair. It was announced that a notice of motion by Mr. Hodgkinson to the effect that the Library should be open during at least three evenings in the week was withdrawn. The chairman congratulated the members upon the satisfactory character of the report (a summary of which will be found at p. 99). There seemed to have been an increase when there should be one, and a decrease when there should be a reduction. The usual business terminated with a vote of thanks to the chair-

man. We learn from the report that the appeal made last year to the members of the Library for assistance in forming a special collection of old reviews and magazines met with a generous response on the part of many members, and produced a total number of 622 volumes. Some of these gifts were duplicates of sets already in the Library, and they are found very useful in enabling the librarian to keep one set at home for reference while the other was in circulation. An interesting collection of works written by foreigners on the subject of Great Britain, numbering 400 volumes, was presented by Mrs. Edwin Edwards. Mrs. Jervis presented 500 volumes, collected by the late Rev. W. Henley Jervis for the purpose of his History of the Church of France. The Rev. Dr. Holden, of Ipswich, presented 88 volumes, consisting chiefly of modern Latin poetry.

NOTTINGHAM.—At the June meeting of the Town Council a letter was read from the Nottingham Literary and Philosophical Society, announcing that it had been decided to dissolve the Society, and offering the residue of its property, after payment of debts and liabilities, to the University College Free Library and Museum Committee, besides scientific collections and apparatus, and a balance of £47. in cash. The gift includes a library of 640 volumes, together with the Proceedings of the Ray, Palæontographical and other Societies, and nearly 100 pamphlets and reports. A resolution to accept the gift with thanks was unanimously carried.

ROTHERHAM.—A valuable gift of books has just been made to Rotherham College, consisting of the library of the late Rev. Dr. Harrison, Vicar of Fenwick, near Doncaster, who died on the 26th of February last. The number of books is about 1700, and consist mainly of critical and patristic works, including about 300 folio volumes of the Latin and Greek Fathers, the works of the German, Swiss, and English reformers, and works relating to recent Church controversies, especially on the question of the Eucharist. The books have been placed in a special room, which will be known as the Harrison Library.

TAUNTON.—The Taunton Somerset Institution, Market House, Taunton, has been given up after an existence of over sixty years, and its library and effects were disposed of by auction on May 21st. The collection comprised about 2000 volumes.

TORONTO (CANADA).—The Free Library Scheme, having passed the ordeal of the popular vote and the attempt to kill it off in the Council by refusing to vote the necessary appropriation, is in a fair way of success. The Library Board starts with a fund of £10,000, besides a building worth £6,000. It is proposed to purchase at once 30,000 volumes. The annual income will be from £2,500 to £3,000, with an increase of ten per cent. per annum. The *Globe* (Toronto) suggests the idea of building up a complete collection of works of reference, the amalgamation of other small libraries existing for a similar purpose. A special collection of Canada literature is also suggested.

WANDSWORTH.—We are indebted to a courteous communication from Mr. E. Erskine Greville, the Vestry Clerk, for the information

that the Library Acts have just been adopted at Wandsworth by a majority of 1868.

WIMBLEDON.—The Library Acts were adopted at Wimbledon on June 21st by a majority of 81 upon a poll. The opinion of the ratepayers had already been taken in the two previous years. This is the fifth instance of the adoption of the Acts in the districts on this side of London.

The Sixth Annual Convention of the American Library Association will be held at Buffalo on Tuesday and three following days. An opening address will be delivered by the President, Prof. Justin Windsor. We hope that our American colleagues may have a pleasant and successful gathering.

The final result of the negotiations for the purchase for the British Museum of a portion of the Ashburnham Manuscripts has been that the Treasury has agreed to give £45,000 for the Stowe Collection without the Appendix. A parliamentary paper is to be issued on the subject.

The account of the Library of Magdalen College, Oxford, which has been contributed to *Notes and Queries* by the librarian, the Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge, is concluded in the issue for June 9th.

The *Manchester City News* (which is edited by our member, Mr. J. H. Nodal) prints a monthly list of the principal additions to the Central Free Library at Manchester. The *Leeds Mercury*, we believe, prints a weekly list of additions to the Leeds Public Library.

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#### LIBRARY CATALOGUES AND REPORTS.

Dublin. Supplemental Catalogue of Books, by Author, Title, Subject and Class, added to the National Library of Ireland during the year 1880. Dublin: for Her Majesty's Stationery Office. 8vo, pp. xi-455, cloth.

This catalogue, which has been prepared by Mr. William Archer, who signs the preface, is a most thorough and satisfactory piece of work. As the title will have indicated, it is compiled upon the Dictionary plan, and on the lines laid down by Mr. Cutter. The compiler, who has the advantage of speaking from considerable experience, speaks very confidently of the utility of this kind of catalogue not only in the library itself, but also outside the library as a guide to reading. The entries, with the exception of the main or author entry, are as far as possible restricted to one or two lines, and the nature of the entry is indicated by corresponding varieties of type. In the case of the main entry the title is given in full, or, if condensed, the individuality is respected as far as possible. Contents are given in numerous cases, and the number of pages, and of illustrations, &c., followed by the place of publication, and the publisher's name, and date. Some of the larger subject entries are exceedingly full, specially the names of Countries, Criticisms, Essays, Fine Arts, History, Literature, Natural Sciences, Philology, Philosophy, Sociology, Theology, Useful Arts. Under Biography we find no less than 37 sub-heads of professions, &c.; the entries in small type extending over more than five pages. Altogether we cannot imagine how the work could be more thoroughly and adequately planned, while the care with which it has been done, and the remarkable freedom from typographical or clerical errors reflect the utmost credit upon cataloguer and printer. We wish that every library in the country might be provided with such a list of its yearly accessions; and we could wish it no greater boon.



**Liverpool.** Annual Supplementary Catalogue of the Liverpool Library (with the Laws and Report), 1883. Liverpool, 1883. 8vo. pp. 78.

The annual list of accessions is prepared with Mr. Wakefield's usual care. The "Novels and Tales" are kept together, and not included in the general alphabet. The one hundred and twenty-fourth annual report states that the issues during the year were 60,697, being a slight decrease on the previous year. The income was £1,310.; and the year closed with a balance in hand of £87. 8s. 1d. The amount expended on purchase and hire of books and book-binding was £636. 0s. 11d.

**Nottingham Mechanics' Institution.** Catalogue of the Lending and Reference Libraries, compiled by J. T. Radford, Sub-librarian. Nottingham, 1883. Price 6d. 8vo, pp. iii.-144, double col.

This is the catalogue of a good library of about 13,000 volumes, part of which consists of a small local collection. By far the larger portion of the books belong to the lending department; those in the reference department extending only from p. 133 to 142. A short list of assumed names is affixed (2 pp.) The catalogue is compiled upon the dictionary system, and is printed in a small but clear type. The contents of collectaneous works are set out, but not those of periodicals. It is a solid and careful bit of work.

**Manor of Aston Local Board.** The Fifth Annual Report of the Free Libraries' Committee, March 26th, 1882 to March 25th, 1883. Aston, 8vo, pp. 16 and wrapper.

The issues for the year were: in the reference department, 8,096; in the lending department, 75,395 volumes. The stock is now, in the reference department, 3,216 volumes; in the lending department, 5,582 volumes. A local collection has been commenced, and a catalogue is in type. It is hoped soon to establish branch news rooms. The rate produced £509. 12s. 3d.

**Glasgow.** Annual Report of Stirling's and Glasgow Public Library, 1882-83, with Proceedings of Annual Meeting of Subscribers, held on 10th April, 1883. Glasgow, 1883. 8vo, pp. 16 and wrapper.

The issues and the number of new members enrolled far exceeded those in any previous year. The issues were: in the reference department, 53,981 as compared with 34,641 the previous year; in the lending department, 50,733, as compared with 22,822 the previous year. The increase this year was nearly twofold. During the year 1,115 volumes and pamphlets were added. The number of new subscribers was 298, and the total number of members is now 664. The income was: from rent £390., from subscriptions £261. 16s. 11d. The Directors refer to the cordial relations always subsisting between this institution and the Mitchell Library, which as far as possible are worked as one.

**London.** Report of the Committee of the London Library to the Forty-second Annual General Meeting of the Members, Thursday, May 31, 1883. [Followed by List of Additions.] 8vo, pp. 53.

The Committee report that 183 members had been added during the year, while 157 had been lost by withdrawal or death, leaving a net increase of 25. The number of members now on the register is 1,737. The receipts were £4,687. and the expenditure £4,120. The amount expended upon books was £992. 16s. 3d. The accessions to the library numbered 4,942, a very large proportion being by donation. The number of volumes sent out for circulation was 97,957, being a decrease of 1,274 upon the previous year. (For an account of the meeting see p. 96.)

**Nottingham.** Forty-fifth Annual Report of the Nottingham Mechanics' Institution. . . Nottingham, 1883. 8vo, pp. 15.

The number of members on the books in 1882 was 2,892, being a decrease of 237, though the income was larger by £66. 3s. 5d. The accessions to the library

by purchase or presentation were 749, making the number of volumes now in library 13,164. A new Catalogue (see notice, *supra*) was compiled by Mr. T. T. Radford the new Assistant-Librarian, whose services are acknowledged by the Committee.

Richmond. Free Public Library, Richmond, Surrey. Second Annual Report of the Committee, 1882-83. Richmond, 1883. 8vo, pp. 16.

The issues for the second year of the working of the library were: in the lending department 79,060, in the reference department 6,844. These figures on the whole compare favourably with those of the first year (198 days), when they were 60,403 and 7,320 respectively. The daily attendance for the year is estimated at 1,217 persons. The accessions for the year were 995, of which 642 were donations. The Committee regret that the ordinary income has not been equal to the ordinary expenditure. The rate for the year produced £378. 14s. 7d. The dinner fund (see *M. N.*, Vol. III, p. 111) produced £108. 11s. 6d. The usual tables are appended.

Twickenham. Free Public Library. First Annual Report, 1882-83. Richmond, 1883. 8vo, pp. 16.

The Acts were adopted on the 11th February, 1882. Sir Charles Freaque kindly allotted three rooms in the Town Hall for the use of the library, and the newsroom was opened on the 2nd October. From that date to the close of the year (147 days) it was visited by 31,567 persons. The libraries, with a stock of over 3000 volumes, were opened on the 24th of February, and the number of borrowers during the 21 days up to the 25th of March was 2,358. The extraordinary expenses of the first year were very heavy, amounting to £303., but the Committee expect that the product of the rate (about £290.) will henceforward maintain the library in an efficient condition.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

*To the Editor of "MONTHLY NOTES."*

To members who, like myself, were called upon in 1881 to pay the heightened price of 14s. per vol. of the "Transactions," some explanation seems due of the fact that these are now being retailed by an Edinburgh bookseller at 6s. 6d. per vol. Apparently the stock has been larger than we were led to believe, and the public are now enjoying an advantage which it would have been sound policy, not to say fair, to have first offered to the members of the Association.

*Aberdeen, May 22.*

A. W. R.

## QUERY.

In what Catalogue, or where is there a setting-out of the *Archæologia*, *The Journal of the Archæological Association*, or *The Archæological Journal*?

ARCHÆOLOGIST.

## NOTICE.

In answer to several correspondents the editor begs to state that the only numbers of the first three volumes of MONTHLY NOTES out of print are those for October and November, 1881. The other numbers may be obtained from Messrs. Trübner & Co., 57, Ludgate Hill, E.C.

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